

advocating for additional transit, bicycle and pedestrian options to improve the daily commute of our residents. She has done exceptional work to preserve our natural resources for future generations by fighting to preserve 330 acres in the foothills. Councilmember Finlay and I recently held a first responder event together to improve wildfire and mudslide prevention and response activities in Duarte and our surrounding community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of Duarte and the many people she has impacted in the Southern California Region, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Councilmember Margaret Finlay for her service as President of the Southern California Association of Governments. I look forward to continuing to work with Councilmember Finlay to improve the lives of residents in Duarte and the San Gabriel Valley.

HONORING THE LIFE OF R.B.  
"BOB" TAYLOR

**HON. BRIAN BABIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2018*

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of World War II veteran, community leader, and dear friend, R.B. "Bob" Taylor who went home to be with the Lord on April 18, 2018 at the age of ninety-two.

Bob was born on October 17, 1926, in Oak Town, Indiana. He served in the United States Army 7th Infantry Division from 1944 to 1946 during the Second World War where he deployed to the South Pacific, with stints in both Okinawa and Korea.

On May 15, 1947, he married his wife of seventy-one years, the former Alice Fox. Together Mr. and Mrs. Taylor raised two daughters, Scarlet and Rhonda, and one son, Michael. The Taylor family has called the Texas Gulf Coast home for many years, having lived in the East Harris, Clearlake, and West Chambers County area since 1953. In 2001, Bob was appointed to an open seat on the City Council in Beach City, and was elected to another term in 2002. He also served as an elected Precinct Chairman for the Chambers County Republican Party. Bob Taylor was also a member and/or director of numerous community and civic organizations including: Arabian Shrine Temple, 32nd Degree Mason, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Cedar Bayou Navigation District Task Force, Bay Area Crime Stoppers, and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. He was also a founder of both the Clear Lake Boat Parade and the Clear Lake Hydroplane Boat Races. Bob often reflected on participating in the Coast to Coast Antique Automobile Race with his son in the late 1980's. He later served as a Bayou Bowl Director, a member of the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce, and as a Director for the Baytown West Chambers County Economic Development Corporation.

A patriot, dedicated public servant, and close friend, Bob will be missed, but his many contributions to his country, state, and community will long live on. Mr. Speaker, my prayers are with the family and numerous friends of R.B. "Bob" Taylor.

CONGRATULATING SOUTHEAST  
MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERN-  
MENTS (SEMCOG)

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2018*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) as it celebrates its 50th year of serving Southeast Michigan.

SEMCOG was formed 50 years ago to fill a vital need—to bring together distinct communities in Southeast Michigan, and provide a forum to help them plan and work together for the common good. The philosophy at the heart of SEMCOG is that the whole is sometimes greater than the sum of its parts, and that our region faces challenges we can only meet by working together.

In the continuing pursuit of regional coordination, business, community, and government leaders came together in the mid-1960s to form the Committee of 100. The Committee of 100 reviewed the functions of both the Regional Planning Commission and the Supervisors Inter-County Commission. In January 1968, on recommendation of the Committee of 100, the Regional Planning Commission and the Supervisors Inter-County Committee disbanded, and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments was formed and began to respond to the need for both planning and other types of intergovernmental and regional programs.

SEMCOG's earliest years set the tone for much of the work they do today and will continue to do in the future. I've had the pleasure of seeing firsthand the growth of SEMCOG, from the days of the Committee of 100 to today.

Today SEMCOG serves 4.7 million people in the seven-county area surrounding Metropolitan Detroit. SEMCOG supports coordinated local planning with technical, data, and intergovernmental resources. The principal purpose of SEMCOG is to help local governments improve and maintain Southeast Michigan's transportation systems, environmental quality, economic interests, and infrastructure.

SEMCOG has been instrumental to our work in Congress, serving as a valuable resource to not only me and my office, but the entire Michigan delegation. A strong, collegial working relationship has been mutually beneficial to developing policy and addressing the needs of Southeast Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing SEMCOG for their steadfast commitment to their mission of addressing regional challenges and strengthening the abilities of local governments to work together.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
YMCA OF NORTHERN UTAH

**HON. JOHN R. CURTIS**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2018*

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to honor the YMCA of Northern Utah, as it celebrates its 125th anniversary.

One hundred and twenty-five years ago, the YMCA opened its doors in Salt Lake City,

Utah. Since then, the YMCA has been vital in building strong kids, families, and communities. Whether it be homework support or summer camping, the Y's impact on Northern Utah has been invaluable.

The afterschool programs that the YMCA provides are priceless to its communities. The Y provides 28 afterschool programs sites across Utah, which serve over 1,350 youth. These programs help ensure that kids have a safe, instructive, and enjoyable place to go after school. This not only gives parents peace of mind about their children's safety, but also instills core values of caring, respect, honesty and responsibility in the participants of the programs.

The YMCA offers many programs that celebrate the beautiful outdoor landscapes in Utah. Utah is widely known as one of the most beautiful places to live and offers a wide variety of outdoor adventures. However, various factors can prevent our children from experiencing the beauty that our state has to offer. The Y has gone to great lengths to ensure that all children can have the opportunity to appreciate the outdoors through overnight camps, day camps, and even recess camps. In these summer programs spread throughout the state, children can meet new friends, learn new skills, connect with nature, and have fun.

On top of everything else, the YMCA also provides a "wide range of programs for adults. Courses are available for individuals learning to speak English, improve financial literacy and money management, prevent Type 2 Diabetes, and enhance fitness. These classes have been wildly successful, with some even gaining national recognition. The development of these skills has been life-changing and enriching to many across the state.

In conclusion, the services at the YMCA have been integral in making Utah one of the best places to live and raise a family. One hundred and twenty-five years later, Utah is a better place to live, with stronger communities and children, because of the YMCA. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the YMCA of Northern Utah as it celebrates its 125 anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA AND JIM FOJE

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Linda and Jim Foje of Council Bluffs, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on February 16, 1968 at Faith Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs.

Linda and Jim's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.